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Lexington High School, Lexington, Mass.

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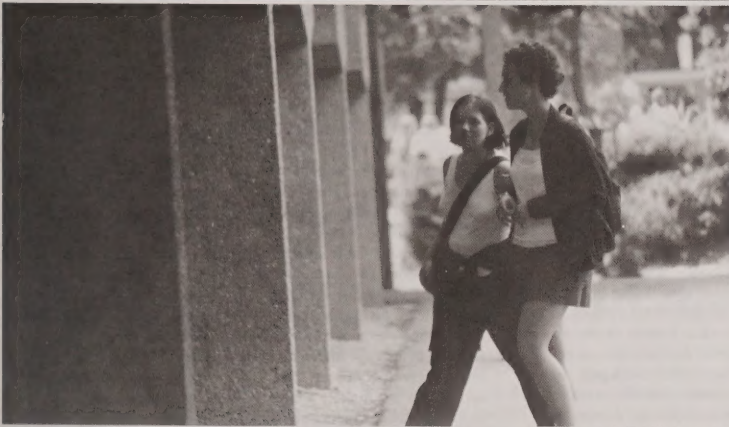


Photo by Bethy Lowenthal

TOO EARLY SPRING - Basking in the warmth of new-found supremacy, juniors Emily Handlin and Sarah Platt don't notice the chill that settled over the high school when the seniors left.

State legislature freezes METCO funding levels

By Allen Riddell

On May 4, the state legislature defeated a bill providing additional funding for the METCO program, opting to continue "level-funding" at \$12 million for another year. The lack of additional funding concerns METCO supporters across the state because, in recent years, the cost of running METCO has outpaced the constant level of funding provided. As a result, METCO programs in Lexington and elsewhere have been forced to cut back on services and resources available to participants.

The funding problem is not new to METCO. The state has "level-funded" METCO for the past decade, forcing each program to adapt and meet the fiscal constraints. Last year, the METCO program at LHS reduced the number of full time staff, the number of buses trans-

porting students, and the availability of late buses at the elementary and middle schools. METCO also significantly reduced funding for tutoring services. Past efforts have included renegotiations of the busing contract as well as other initiatives

"Eventually, the METCO Program will be 'level-funded' out of existence if this pattern continues."

-METCO Director Cheryl Prescott-Walden

to lower expenditures.

Assessing the extent of the problem at LHS, Lexington's METCO Director Cheryl Prescott-Walden said in a recent letter to METCO parents, "Eventually, the METCO Program will be 'level-funded' out of existence if this pattern continues."

Next year, METCO students can expect a further reduction in services. While the METCO program attempts to cut back on services or resources that have the least direct effect on students, without increased funding the LHS program may find it impossible to meet the fiscal requirements without some direct impact on students. Last year, as the program recombined four bus routes three, METCO participants experienced noticeably longer bus rides. In September LHS may again reduce tutoring services avail-

able to METCO students. To adapt to the continuation of "level-funding," the METCO program will continue to cut services, including additional reduction in services already hit hard.

The problems associated with "level-funding" concern METCO supporters across the state. For the past few years, proponents of METCO in the state legislature have introduced legislation to increase METCO's funding in hopes of ending the history of "level-funding." This year, despite bipartisan support in the legislature, further METCO funding was defeated at the local level.

Representative Jay Kaufman, at a recent discussion forum held at the Museum of our National Heritage, said that the lack of support for METCO was "a very serious indictment of the legislature."

The source of METCO's legislative trouble stems from the proportion of systems participating in the METCO program to those not participating. With only 32 towns in the METCO program, representation in the legislature remains a minority. Since increased funding does not benefit towns who do not participate in the program, those towns' representatives are less likely to support bills that allocate more funds for METCO programs. METCO supporters hope that sympathetic legislators will work to encourage support

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Young offered Newton's superintendent position

By Kurt Kastorf

On Tuesday, May 26, the Newton School Committee voted to offer Lexington Public Schools superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Young the Newton superintendent's job. Young has not yet said whether he intends to take the position, but he has expressed significant interest in the opportunity.

Of the original three finalists for the position, only Young remains interested after the other two dropped out. Dr. David Quattrone from Cincinnati, Ohio withdrew his application after his wife accepted a job in Ohio. Meanwhile, Dr. Eric Eversley from Illinois has accepted a job in Long Island, N.Y. The Newton School Committee has expressed some dissatisfaction in having their choices limited, but are generally optimistic about Young taking the position and helping their school system.

Many Lexington residents and school officials have been dreading the possible departure of Young since he became a finalist for the Newton position on April 9th. Young has become well respected and won the praise of many members of the school committee and Lexington High School Principal Philip Lanoue. School Committee

members may also justly worry over how to manage the selection process if they need to search for a new superintendent. Highly qualified applicants are a rare find, and many residents still remember the tribulations over choosing a new superintendent when Dr. Geiger vacated the position in 1992.

Young has expressed a desire to take the Newton job since he was first announced as a finalist. The Newton system is roughly twice the size of Lexington's, with 11,000 stu-

dents in twenty-one schools. Young sees adapting to a new and larger system as a "professional challenge." He is interested in applying the skills he has learned in

Lexington to a larger system.

Working in his hometown is also appealing. Dr. Young, a long-time resident of Newton, has two children in the school system, and has mentioned interest in "the possibility of serving my home community." Young considers the Newton system "excellent," though he notes that most of his knowledge of the system comes from his children's experiences.

Dr. Young has not said when he will formally announce if he will accept the Newton job.

GSA members enduring worse homophobic acts

By Ashwini Nadkarni

Gay Straight Alliance members have recently encountered more opposition than having their posters torn down and vandalized. On May 20, a male freshman was allegedly knocked down in what appeared to be a hostile manner in the quadrangle outside the main building. The attacker pushed the GSA member to the ground and then ran away. The incident occurred after the GSA member marched in the Gay Straight Youth Pride March on Saturday, May 16, and was allegedly witnessed by junior Rachel Vogelzang. The assault is currently under investigation by the school administration.

tration.

Though the assault was disturbing, members do not consider it abnormal. After hearing about the attack, junior Katherine Fisher said she considered the attack "pretty serious" but also noted that similar incidents have happened before. Senior Carolyn Bloomberg, founder of the GSA, was also not surprised by the incident. "We expected something like this to happen and we didn't want it to happen. But now that it has happened, it will serve as the catalyst toward taking action against homophobia at Lexington High," said

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Inside

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"The horror, the horror..." - Tortola tells it like it is about the senior prom. Page 5

Our Field of Dreams - The boys of summer clinch the league title. Page 10



Photo by Carl Tortola

NO JOKING- Junior Eric Hou is very, very serious about the college application process.

More changes for students at LHS coming in the fall

By Kurt Kastorf and Allen Riddell

Lexington High School will recognize several changes in the fall. Though students should not expect any drastic revision of their school, the faculty, school policy, and the high school building will all change slightly by September.

All future graduating classes will have a chance to meet their 990-hour requirement through approved school related activities. After studying the results of the survey taken this year, Principal Philip Lanoue found that nearly 75 percent of students would meet the 990-hour requirement under the new system. Of those 25 percent who failed to fulfill the requirement, Lanoue expects the number to drop as students become more aware of the requirement and

talk with their guidance counselors.

Lanoue reviewed all of the survey forms and reviewed all suggestions with the Principal's Instructional Council. Lanoue hopes the plan will encourage students with few extracurricular activities to become involved. Eventually, the school may print students' activities on the back of high school transcripts to aid students with the college admissions process. The 1998-99 list will include more activities than did the survey this fall.

Graduation requirements will remain mostly unchanged in the Fall. However, starting with current sophomores, the school will only require six semesters of Physical Education instead of seven. As a result, students can elect not to take both Physical education and Adolescent Health

By Evan Harris

On June 7, Lexington High School graduates 323 seniors. Of these, 95 percent, or 307 students will continue their education. About 88 percent, or 285 students will matriculate at a four year college or university.

While on the surface it would seem that nothing has changed, the college application and admissions process is becoming more intense and more competitive each year,

according to Guidance Department Director Dr. Carol Kerrssey. Kerrssey says that,

"Students need to proactively avail themselves of counselors to get the help and support they need[.]"

*-Guidance Director
Dr. Carol Kerrssey*

in general, students are faring as well this year as in prior years. She does note that many colleges and universities are definitely raising their standards and accepting fewer LHS graduates.

One possible reason that college admissions is becoming more competitive is the widespread use of the Common Application and the fact that students can complete the Common Application for many schools electronically. This fact has enabled and encouraged some students to apply to more colleges, suggests Kerrssey. She adds, "This is definitely a factor in the increasing number of applications at many colleges and universities. This is problematic if students are applying to schools...because it is easy [to apply] and not because they are seriously are interested in attending."

Kerrssey notes that this process can negatively affect other kids who really want to go to those schools and are also using the Common Application. Because of the significantly higher number of applications at a given school, some students

are not gaining admission.

The Guidance Department will complete its annual review and analysis of the actual college application and admissions process during the summer after which they will have a better understanding of admissions trends and statistics at specific schools. Kerrssey does however note that "[M]ore seniors are applying for early action or early decision than ever before, a trend that began accelerating two years ago. More kids are applying early and getting accepted early."

One drawback of binding early decisions is that some students are being locked into their final college selection early in the process and are missing the opportunity to get a good sense of many colleges. Kerrssey warns that students should only apply on an early decision basis "if you are really sure that you want to attend that school if you get admitted, because you're making a binding commitment. I think for many students, it is too early to know that in October, before they have done enough research."

In the opinion of many, including Kerrssey, Lexington High School prepares and assists its students quite well in the college application process. Kerrssey said, "The guidance counselors are here to help students and parents understand the process...Students need to proactively avail themselves of counselors to get the help and support they need and to make certain that the counselors get to know them as individuals."



Photo by Caroline Loomis

ALL SMILES - French teacher Karen Girondel beams in delight at freshman Stephanie Skier's election to the LHS Senate.

METCO program feeling lack of adequate funding

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from their peers. "Those in favor, philosophically and in reality, need to be able to sway other representatives to support the program," said Prescott-Walden.

With 3,300 Boston and Springfield students and over 13,000 students on the waiting

list, the continuation of "level-funding" affects students in all 32 participating systems.

Students can expect more reduction in services next year and again in the future if "level-funding" continues. Lexington's program is working to determine how "level-funding" will affect their program, and how to minimize the impact of service cuts.

News Briefs

'98-'99 ELECTION RESULTS

Senate: Class of '99: Abbe Barg, Taylor Carroll, Stephany Collamore, Stephanie Coueignoux, Jason Hirschhorn, Claire Cuno, Ami Karkar, Heidi Manshreck; Class of '00: Courtney Benson, Kate Billipp, Matthew Burrows, Josh Champney, Jim Doran, Aaron Edelstein, Tanaz Sharifnia, Kaytrue Ting; Class of '01: Eric Camins, Marcus Catsouphe, Nathan Gilbert, Yi-An Huang, Jacqueline Ou, Tingting Peng, Chris Ranjitar, Stephanie Skier; Faculty: Sam Kafrissen, Karen Girondel, Steven Bogart, Wendy Cordero, Jennifer Bell, Marge Saradjian, Michael Fiveash, Robert Pohlman, Ceanne Tzimopoulos, Jerusha Vogel.

Board of Appeals: Nick Roetter '99, Mallika Mundkar '00, Brian King '01.

School Committee Representative: Wenda Harris '99.

Principal's Instructional Council: Mallika Mundkar '00.

Class of '99: President: Jonathan Amar; Vice President: Ami Karkar; Treasurer: Peter Claize; Secretary: Christie Ludwig; Class Council: Jessica Liu, John Erickson, Avital Levy, Nick Roetter, Carolyn Grunst, Amy Gillis, Kelly Archidiacono, Ari Vigoda, Mehran Ahmed, Taylor Carroll, Claire Cuno, Paul Bovet, Adriana Schick, Maggie Allen, Jason Hirschhorn, Eric Tustison.

Class of '00: President: Alex Sherman; Vice President: Jacqueline Fields; Treasurer: Kristen Lager; Secretary: Tony Carlow; Class Council: Marita Agnes, Carolyn Baker, Stephanie Carter, Sumit Dasgupta, Jim Doran, Perry Dougherty, Rebecca Ginns, Shaw Flick, Jon Gilman, Nisha Harani, Lida Kim, Kathy Litchfield, Suzi Rutti, Jenny Sykes, Katie Smith, Michael Yusah.

Class of '01: President: Mercedes La Vel Crosby; Vice President: Michelle Geller; Treasurer: Shana Pressman; Secretary: Erica Salamon; Class

Council: Gina Deck, S. Alki Delichatsios, Robin Fleishman, Jingbo Huang, Yi-An Huang, Clara Kim, Diana Lo, John J. Mirabella, Jacqueline Ou, Lauren Reddy, Andres Reyes, Caitlin Rouse, Valerie Texin, Anna Tustison, Gavin Walsh, Christine Wang.

SUPREME COURT DENIES HEARING FOR YEO CASE

On June 1, the United States Supreme Court decided to deny a hearing for Douglas Yeo's lawsuit against the town of Lexington for the LHS Yearbook's having denied his ad promoting abstinence. Yeo had filed a petition to have the Supreme Court hear his case, known as a writ of certiorari. The Supreme Court grants "cert" (decides to hear) to only a small percentage of cases that are brought to their attention. The First Circuit Court of Appeal's decision in favor of the town of Lexington will now stand in the absence of higher court review.

Awards ceremony rewards foreign language enthusiasts

By Ashwini Nadkarni

At LHS, those who excel in academics outside the classroom get a chance to shine. However, the list of activities often excludes foreign languages. The Foreign Language Awards Ceremony that took place on Wednesday, May 13 this year, is one way of highlighting the foreign language program at the high school and the students who excel within these programs.

In attendance were several prominent local figures. Dr. Jeffrey Young, superintendent of the school; Principal Philip Lanoue; Susan Elberger, a member of the school committee; and a representative of the Italian consulate were among those who helped in distributing and presenting the many awards. The foreign language staff, of course, was also present. Mary Alice Samii, the Coordinator of Foreign Language, was the emcee. The awards presented included awards for exceptionally high scores on national examinations in Spanish, French, German, and Latin. There were also awards given to students whose teachers chose them because of their dedication, enthusiasm, and excellence in the study of a language offered at the high school. These subjects include English as a Second Language, Italian, Bilingual Chinese, and American Sign Language, along with French, Spanish,

Latin and German.

There were also specific awards given to seniors who displayed particular leadership in foreign languages. There were five such departmental awards. Timothy Attanucci received the award for "Excellence in the Study of Foreign Languages." Nicholas Vargelis received an award for service to the department. David Rosner received the Jenanyan Memorial Scholarship from French Club. Paul Bombara and Daniel Kamen received the Spanish Club Scholarship. Finally, Carl Tortola won the Italian Scholarship Award.

From start to finish, the Foreign Language Awards Ceremony was a celebration of the many rich foreign language programs offered at our high school and the students who participate and excel in them.

LHS Science Team sees bitter-sweet performance at Nationals

By Jason LeeKeenan

On Wednesday, May 13, the LHS Science Olympiad team boarded a bus headed for Michigan. Having won the

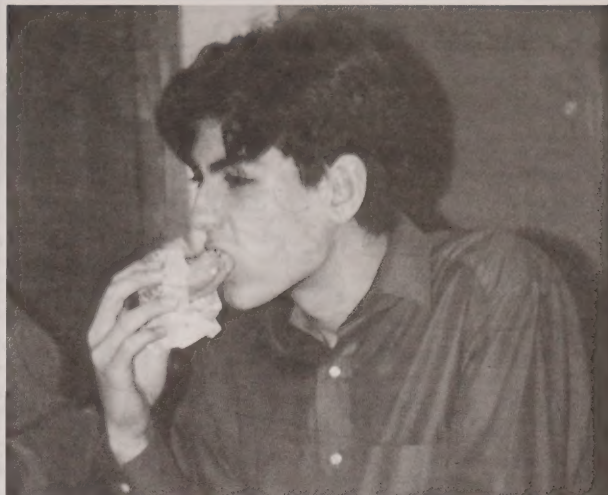


Photo courtesy of Yearbook

TONGUE TWISTER - The lingually adept junior Bryan Marcovici can speak several languages even with his mouth full.

state tournament in March, they were headed for the National Science Olympiad, held at Grand Valley State University in Allendale. This was the third consecutive time that Lexington had won the State Competition and had advanced to the Nationals.

The Science Olympiad is a wide-ranging competition, covering areas from standard textbook academics such as biology or physics to engineering such as Bottle Rocket and team events such as Write It / Do It, where teams are judged on how effectively they can follow each other's instructions on how to rebuild a structure. Fifty-four teams participated in the competition, including multiple teams from some states and representatives from Canada and Puerto Rico. Inspirational speeches were presented by Former President Gerald Ford (via video), Michigan Congressman and Ph.D. physicist Dr. Vernon Ehlers, and representatives of the corporate sponsors.

Directly upon their arrival Thursday afternoon team members started preparing for their competition events on Saturday, taking only a short break in between for the final episode of Seinfeld. Much of the time was devoted to creating Mission Possible, a box of given dimensions containing up to 30 Rube Goldberg-

style "action transfers" intended to drop two Ping-Pong balls into a cup 5 seconds apart. Lexington coach Scott Carpenter and Science Team veteran Steve Davis stayed up all night to ensure that the device was working properly, but unfortunately a judge destroyed the device by trying to clean up some water he thought it had spilt.

A banquet and awards ceremony were held for the winners in the events on Saturday night. From LHS, Russell Ganzi and Won Chai won a bronze medal in the trial event Propeller Propulsion. Yuen-Jong Liu and Steve Davis won 2nd place in Practical Data Gathering, another trial event. Trial events do not count towards the team score, but usually count towards the team score the following year. In the scored events, Rudolf Faust IV and Ram Gowda placed 4th in Water Quality.

Unfortunately, Lexington also had some disappointments. In the Tower Building engineering event, Lexington placed second to last, being disqualified for not following the size requirements. Also, Lexington placed last (54th) in the computer event "Surfing the Net," as one team member was accused of receiving outside help during the competition. Out of the 54 teams, Lexington placed 23rd overall.



Photo by Caroline Loomis

VISA, MASTERCARD, OR DISCOVER? - On Discovery Day, May 23, Lexingtonians enjoyed entertainment and blatant advertising with the help of sophomore Raki Sastry and freshman Izzy Maxwell and Matt Bogdanow.

Rising intolerance fueling attacks on GSA members

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Bloomberg.

The Gay Straight Youth Pride March was sponsored by the Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth and was organized to show support for gays and their straight allies. Junior Holly Arthur, who participated in the march said, "It was an amazing experience to see so many people coming together, uniting for one cause."

After marching on May 16, members also attended the Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth (BAGLY) Prom held in Boston that evening. The BAGLY Prom is only one of many events the GSA has been involved in toward the end of the school year.

About a week after the march and prom, members participated in the Arlington GSA potluck dinner. Students from Lexington and Arlington attended a dinner held at the Arlington Unitarian Universalist Church with the goal of furthering communication among the Alliances in the area. During the event, a banner design contest was held. Though the Lexington students did not win the contest, members do plan to make their own banner from their design and hang it up in the glass case in G House. In choosing the secure glass case as a spot to hang their banner, GSA members demonstrate their awareness of the homophobic attitudes at LHS which were clearly revealed in November when posters were torn down.



Photo by Caroline Loomis

AIRHEADS AND IRON FISTS - An unidentified senior (l) tried to end the drought of memorable senior pranks by scaling the flagpole while the high school recently hosted a massive police presence, courtesy of Principal Philip Lanoue (r).

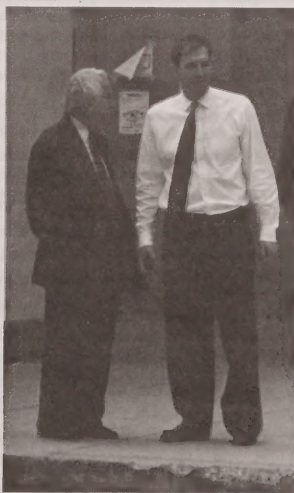


Photo by Dan Myung



Cartoon by Ram Gowda

Face homophobia, don't hide it

A student marches in the Gay Straight Youth Pride March in Boston. What do we do about it? *Brandish the pitchforks! Hey, you get the sledgehammer, I'll get the chain saw. I can't promise all his blood, but there'll be enough for a good show.*

Although attacks on gays at Lexington High School may not involve the use of carpentry tools, violence does occur. In November, posters that advertised meetings for the Gay Straight Alliance were torn down or defaced. Such posters continue to be destroyed. Recently, a student who marched in the May 16th Gay Straight Youth Pride March in Boston was attacked in the "quad" at our high school. Clearly, such actions reflect feelings of intolerance toward homosexuals.

The solution? Form our very own Lexington version of the Haight-Ashbury District of San Francisco? Hey, that might not be too bad an idea! I could use a taste of counterculture that doesn't boast "Mudd" jeans and high hair. As enticing as the proposition may be, I'll settle for a more mundane solution. Of course, this can only be implemented through the policies of the school administration. To reduce homophobia, the administration should first publicly acknowledge the problem.

Most of the time, students are not aware that members of the Gay Straight Alliance or other perceived as homosexual are attacked. Some did not know that posters were torn down even after articles relaying the information were published in the *Musket*. Closed doors and dis-

creet fingers over lips will not remedy the situation. Good, old-fashioned publicity in the form of announcements on the loudspeaker or assemblies would do more. Certainly, the Drama Social Issues Classes are doing their part to lessen the problem of homophobia. However, a handful of presentations performed sporadically are not going to relieve all the tension.

Some argue that it is the responsibility of the Gay Straight Alliance to deal with hate crimes against gays. These people are deluded. The year-old Gay Straight Alliance does not hold clout. Rather, the administration has the power. By promoting the Gay Straight Alliance, the administration seeks to project a liberal image. Lexington High School is the epicenter of democracy, the Mecca of liberalism! Underneath this veneer lies an administration that is avoiding its responsibility. The problem will not go away unless the administration stops play-acting for the sake of appearances and starts taking action against intolerance.

On a more idealistic note, the members of the student body should become more tolerant. It is appalling that as high school students we should still suffer the affliction typical of most middle school students: Immaturity. If students understood that individuality should be celebrated, not attacked, our school wouldn't wallow in insincere piety.

- Ashwini Nadkarni

Seniors - always the best yet

Well, folks, it's that time of year again. Yes, that's right, June is bustin' out all over. Sun, sand, finals, frisbee, buds bustin' out on bushes, and all the rest are here. For a full quarter of the LHS population, the June they've known over the past thirteen years is dead and gone — the final "last" to be experienced after a year of last dances, last concerts, last games, last chances, and last attempts at some semblance of work. For the rest of us, this is merely another in a long line of twenty-sixth miles, as we attempt to avoid universal slump after having watched seniors for the past six months.

For us non-seniors, graduation day is a far less touted, yet still poignant event. Of course, we're not the ones on our way to college or the workplace. Yet senior departure and underclass ascension mean large changes, both for better and worse, for those of us left behind.

Gone forever will be the "big kids" — in earlier incarnations, you seniors pushed us off swings, stole kickballs from us, advised us on which teachers to avoid, and provided someone to look up to, literally and, on occasion, figuratively. Two times before, after elementary and middle school, you've pretended to leave us juniors as kings of the hill — but after a year, we again were at the bottom of the pile. This time, though, is the last time. With a few exceptions, you will never again share a school with us.

On the other hand, while we will certainly miss our friends among the senior class, the sense of power we're beginning to feel is a little intoxicating. The caffeine antidote known as senior blood flowing through our veins, the

soon-to-be permanent slouch, the devil-may-care gaze... our transformation and ascension are almost complete. And, in our minds, as is true for every incoming senior class, one thing is certain: we'll be a better senior class than you were. As we lounge in the main quad, laughing at your sophomoric, unoriginal senior pranks of water balloons and graffiti, we plan for next year, hoping to reach the plateau attained only by Tim Dunn. Seriously, graffiti? Since when did random vandalism qualify as a senior prank? In a year, though, when we're on the verge of graduation and yet to transform the field house into a giant cheeseburger or send a fireball down the main hall, we'll probably also be forced to sink to the level of petty crime to save some face.

One more graduation result to watch out for: summer class confusion. You've all experienced it. At least once this summer, a well-meaning adult acquaintance will approach you, and, with no intent to cause mental trauma, will ask, after commenting on your amazing growth rate, "What year are you now in school?" You will immediately lose all control of your faculties, as well as any time you had in your head. You will hem. You will haw. You will respond, depending on your year (a sample is presented here), in a pitiful, stilted voice, "I'm a jun. . . no, a sen. . . um, I graduate in June 1999. Yeah."

All joking aside, seniors, you will be missed. Enjoy college. Have a nice life. As for the rest of you? See you in September — I'll be the one stealing your kickball.

- Ken Weinstein

Soap opera: the same old grime

Repugnant. No, too timid a word. Repulsive. Still not quite forceful enough. Vile. Ah yes. That is the word that perfectly sums up the condition of bathrooms at Lexington High School. Everyone knows that bathrooms should be a sanctuary from the classroom, a place where one can go to escape academics for a few precious moments. Some students, though, make a point of avoiding the facilities at all costs, and would rather sit through the most tedious of classes than encounter the nauseating odors that collect behind closed doors. Entering many bathrooms at LHS is like walking into an invisible wall of stench. Though girls' bathrooms are a bit better maintained than boys', all lack proper sanitary conditions.

Perhaps the least healthy aspect of the situation is that after using the facilities, students can't wash their hands properly. They are often presented with either a turn-of-the-century, grainy, powdered soap which makes hands feel less clean than they had before, or no soap at all. This certainly does nothing to halt the spread of disease (especially during the winter) or to ease the paranoia of germaphobes. To top things off, paper towels are often absent from the lavatories. So, we wonder, how can Lexington High School, supposedly one of the finest public schools in the nation, not afford its students proper hygiene?

Three months ago, the Senate brought up the issue of providing soap in every bathroom at LHS. Madame Girondel wrote a bill setting forth the measure. The bill was passed by the Senate in December. However, there has not been a change in the soap situation since then. Why? According to Assistant Principal Tony Capezza, a "spending freeze" is in effect, meaning the school can't pay for soap at the present time. He promised that the measure would take effect next year.

What of the other bathroom blues? Well, the first step on the road to hygienic bathrooms may be for students to flush the toilets. It is a simple yet effective method. For all those who have never attempted to flush before, here are some instructions: there is a lever attached to the toilet/urinal. Before exiting the bathroom, apply pressure to the lever. The contents of the toilet/urinal will be emptied into the plumbing system, and you will have become a part of the odyssey toward cleaner bathrooms. Perhaps the school could install working ventilation systems as well. Maybe an occasional spray of Lysol would even do the trick. We've all heard so much speculation about renovating LHS; surely, a few dollars could be spent on rest rooms. Otherwise, LHS students will be forever forced to survive without soap or hope.

- Ben Hart

	
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The Senior Prom is a night of darkness

After the college acceptance/rejection letters roll in, a senior's thoughts turn to springtime activities – and more importantly, the prom. Looking up the word in the dictionary, I found that the word "prom" comes from "promenade." Sounds simple and harmless enough. But honestly – what evil, deranged mind invented the prom? The "happiest night of your life" is nothing but a farce – a sham if you will.

At the heart of the matter, the prom is just a dance. It's more showy, more glittery, way more expensive, more frustrating, more important, more talked up, more nerve-wracking, bigger, louder, and exotic than your average, run of the mill Springtime dance. It can also get a bit stuffier in the room. It's a dance that costs something like 393 dollars more than your regular 7-dollar ticket dance. I'll get to the logistics of it later.

The event starts out quite innocently. "Let's all vote for the prom song!" we hear over the morning announcements, our ears barely able to make out whatever top 40 trash they play over the speaker, which sounds more and more like the Burger King Drive-Thru, with every other syllable cut off. Posters start appearing on the wall after vacation. They arrive at an alarming rate, soon outnumbering the 100 posters that the Yearbook put up not just a few weeks before. Announcements are repeated morning after morning. All we have to do is repeat them and it becomes a catechism.

The date looms closer and closer, like a doctor's appointment. It's almost like a chore to think about the prom, let alone do anything about it. More and more people start talking about it. Your friends all have dates. Your parents even start interrogating you about it. "What are your plans? Who are you going with? Who are all your friends going with?" They shine a bright light in your face, waiting for answers. Crunch time looms even closer, and finally you decide to ask someone. You've had this person in your mind since the beginning of the year. You didn't have the guts to ask them to the snowball, and you haven't spoken to them since January. You're waiting for just the right moment – not too early, and hopefully not too late. Now, one of two things can happen. You can ask this person and they will say yes – maybe reluctantly, maybe under certain conditions – but they said yes! That's all the matters. Things don't look so bad after all! Or... they could say no – maybe they would have said yes if you asked sooner, maybe they just don't like you – but no means no. Things just got a lot more complicated. Either way, this last episode in the

soap opera we call the "Prom Nightmare" is the only time that you have two paths to be forced upon.

So what if your secret crush rejected you? Treat it like college. If one doesn't take you, look to another. It doesn't matter if you don't like it as much as your first choice. You're only trying to get by. Eventually you find somebody who you think will take the place of your true love. It might be someone who you haven't talked to since October. You might even have to dip into the underclass pool for a date – how sad. There are at least 150



oh what a night!

Illustration by Sarah Park

members of each sex in a given grade. How is it possible that one can't find someone from their own grade? But it doesn't matter. You've now got a date to a really expensive dance! Heck – you even start the great spending by buying their ticket for them.

The student parking lot becomes a white tornado. Fliers for tuxedo rentals, gown sales, and tanning parlors go under every windshield wiper in the parking lot, probably teachers' as well. Not every teacher who claims to have gone to the Caribbean actually went there, even though they might have some "proof." Your mind becomes instantly frugal, looking for the best deal. You

drive to the other side of town just to find clothing. You find some flowers on yet another corner of town. The bill starts to grow like a three-week bean sprout.

Your friend wants to rent a limo. The numbers fly through your head. How many people can you stuff into the back of one of those? 12? 14? We could fit more if there were a sunroof. You take up a second job to prepare for the eventual black hole that will form in your wallet. You start to get headaches when it comes to thinking about the prom.

The day finally arrives. Your clothes are too tight, but you grin and bear it, like a good little trooper. Everyone comes to your house first to wait for the limo. Your mother takes pictures and sends you on your way. You stop at all 12 passenger's houses so their mothers can take pictures. You stop at the nursing home so your grandmother can take a picture. You stop at the limo service so the driver can take a picture. You finally arrive at the hotel where you wait in line to pay \$30 for a picture. All while waiting for the flash to go off and shuttling couples to everyone's house, your palms get wetter and wetter. You've been sitting down on a plush seat for a half-hour, but you're already tired. Everybody wants to change the radio station, but someone is sitting on the controls.

You spend all the time in the car worrying that you'll be late, but upon arrival you find that they won't be opening the ballroom doors for another half hour. Once the doors open, you rush in, trying to get a seat while your date gathers as many of their friends – not your friends – as possible to fill up the table. The table fills up quickly, and you end up not getting a seat yourself, even though

PROM continued on page 8

Competition is more harmful than inspiring

Although on the surface it seems an ideal situation to have a large amount of very intelligent and hard-working students in the same school, there are some side effects of this situation that are not very desirable. One of these problematic side effects which occurs at schools like Lexington is a very high level of competition among the students.

Obviously, competition is not always a bad thing. Some students really enjoy being pushed to achieve by their classmates' successes. Still, when competition is taken overboard, it can have very harmful consequences. Although the thrill of being "the best in the class" can be a really powerful emotion for some students to experience, others who may be struggling with this same class can develop very damaging feelings of inferiority or "dumbness." Because Lexington High School has so many intelligent students and offers many challenging, college-level honors classes, a student who could have gotten straight A's in another school may be an average, B or C student at Lexington.

Competition is also harmful for even those who do very well in school and take many honors classes. Many times, these students' great accomplishments are not recognized because they are overshadowed by someone else's successes. Students may begin to doubt their own abilities to do well in school. They feel that no matter how well they do in a specific class, there will always be someone ahead of them.

Also, "class segregation" goes on at Lexington High. Because it is very difficult to change class levels from year to year in certain subjects at Lexington, honors students may end up with the same mix of people in their honors classes. They do not get to interact with people who generally take Level 1 or 2 classes unless they take non-academic courses such as chorus or art. This is damaging to all the students at Lexington High, because it does not foster a sense of school or class spirit. For example, if freshman honors students go through their Lexington High School experience taking honors courses with the same basic group of 100 or 200 people from their class, they don't get to interact with the rest of the people in their freshman class. This problem worsens as the grade level increases. Seniors on the "honors track" can end up taking classes with the same thirty or forty people. This creates a lack of unity at Lexington High and limits the experiences and friendships of everyone in the class.

Lexington has already made some strides in decreasing competition by, for example, not using class rank anymore. Still, more progress needs to be made so all students can feel comfortable and self-confident about their learning experience at Lexington High. It is possible to achieve this goal through educating students and staff and asking them to examine their (often sub-conscious) competitive attitudes.

MCAS messes with successes

Aside from a modicum of comic relief, most students have not found much use for those threatening signs:

"Students in the class of 2003 must pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment (MCAS) tests in order to graduate!" Most of the intended audience will graduate before current seventh graders set foot in Lexington High School.

Before they arrive, however, the graduation requirement will have implications on the curriculum in Lexington's schools. As part of an effort to standardize the way teachers teach and students learn, the MCAS tests are based on the state's curriculum "framework." By making graduation contingent on a passing MCAS score, the state is, in effect, requiring that school systems adopt the state's curriculum in order to graduate students. Just as the requirement of 990 hours of structured learning obligated LHS to conform to the state's standards, the graduation requirement may result in the state curriculum supplanting a preexisting one. Unfortunately, this time, the state's requirement may be more difficult to accommodate than the 990-hour requirement.

The purpose of the MCAS tests is to raise academic standards. The hope is that a standardized curriculum and testing regimen will assist schools that do poorly in certain areas to improve in those areas and in doing so, to raise the overall level of academic achievement. By standardizing teaching and evaluation methods, states will be better equipped to deal with schools with low academic performance. New York and California are notable examples where curriculum standardization has succeeded.

Lexington and other school systems, however, have succeeded despite any standardized curriculum. Given the resources and time put into developing Lexington's curriculum, it is unclear why Lexington should adopt the state's curriculum, especially because Lexington's curricu-

lum has been so successful. The graduation requirement forces the issue by requiring that Lexington adopt the state's curriculum so that students will be prepared to take the state's MCAS tests. Without the graduation requirement, the MCAS tests would still be valuable as a means of improving the school's current curriculum. By using the results of the MCAS tests, problem areas could be identified. Responses to problems in the curriculum could be addressed perhaps by adopting parts of the state's curriculum "framework," after it had been established that the state's system could produce better results.

The prospect of MCAS being a graduation requirement has already resulted in changes to the current curriculum and more may follow. The English curriculum for current sophomores has been altered, at least partially, to prepare students for the MCAS tests. Science schedules may be changed to allow time for students to learn the required chemistry and physics in the state curriculum that appear on the MCAS tests.

The danger of a standardized curriculum is that it may result in changes that compromise LHS's currently successful curriculum. Intervention in a proven curriculum is unlikely to produce meaningful results and may even undermine parts of Lexington's curriculum. Using the state curriculum, sophomores, for example, would be required to devote a significant amount of class time to learning the chemistry and physics topics that appear on the exam. This would shift the focus on biology that has historically been successful.

Even without considering the impact on specific subjects, it hardly seems a sound policy choice to require (or even ask) schools like Lexington to abandon a successful curriculum for an untested one.

- Allen Riddell

- Jeanie Gorlovsky

Names and Places 1998

The Musket staff made several attempts to contact all members of the Class of 1998 regarding their post-graduation plans. The following is a complete list of graduates, including the plans of those who responded to our inquiries. We sincerely regret any errors or omissions.

-A-

Betty Abajian
Mohammed Al-Mazeedi
Waheeda Ali
Suyapa Beatrice Allen
Jarrod W. Annese
Sarah Appleby
Eric Joseph Arch
Thomas Archibald
Eric Robert Armstrong
Tim Attanucci

University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Undecided
Northeastern University
Curry College

Hampshire College

Cornell University
Lafayette College
Harvard University

Matthew Fahnestock
Melanie Figueiredo
Lisette Figueroa
Dorrie Fisher
Lauren Floro
Clint Fralick
Joel French
Ethan Fried
Becky Frymer
Cristian Fukuda Kaplan

Dickinson College

Salve Regina University
Bentley College

Connecticut College
Tufts University
University of California at Santa Barbara

-B-

Jason George Backus Gilchrist
Andy Bair
Michele E. Barbieri
Benjamin Barrington
Allison Barry
Jamal Baynes
Andrew P. Bechtel
Christopher Wichman Beltz
Eran Benedek
Theodore Itamar Ben-Harav
Renuka Bhaskar
Amanda C. Blanton
Carolyn Anne Bloomberg
Stephen Blume
Christopher C. Bol
Paul Bombara
Natasha S. Bonugli
J. Jesse Borges IV
John S. Brandes
Rafael Bras
Reza R. Breakstone
Alexandra Buchman
Jessi Buckley
Jennifer Anne Bumbaca
Caitlin C. P. Burrows
Rebecca Busa
Chris Butts

Lassell College
Connecticut College

Rutgers University
Simmons College

Colgate University
Trinity College
University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Boston University
Texas A&M University
Bard College
Ithaca College
Undecided
Suffolk University
Syracuse University School of Architecture

University of Colorado at Boulder
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
University of Michigan at Ann Arbor
George-Buchner-Schule
Duquesne University

Salve Regina University
Endicott College
Bentley College

Srinath Gaddam
Max Gassmann
Tiffani Gavan
Kimberly Gayle
Saro Getzoyan
Peter Gill
Alexander Girondel
Naomi Goodman
Ram Gowda
Joe Grainger
Meredith Green
Philip A. Green
Sarah E. Green
Theresa Green
Sean Grey
Amie Grosshans

-G-

University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Gettysburg College
Seton Hall University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Working
Brandeis University
Harvard University

Virginia Interment College
Principia College
Oberlin College
Wellesley College
Curry College
McGill University

-H/I/J-

Catherine Halverson
Michael Harrington
Donnell Harvey
Ken Hatfield
Stephen Hayden
Dan Hazen
Chetan Hertzog
James Heslop
Matt Hill
Kay Horiuchi
Brenna House
William Howe
Hanshin Hsieh
G. Paul Hudak
Elizabeth Hunt
Michael Ifill
Radu Istrate
Avi Jacob
Matt Jacobs
Jackie Jacobson
Laura Jansen
Darcy Jaw
Paul Jensen
Elizabeth Johansson
Krystyna Johnson
Khadijah Jones
Zachary Joslow

Castleton State College
University of New Hampshire
Lassell College
Miami University at Coral Gables
Brandeis University
Northwestern University
Brandeis University
College of Charleston, South Carolina
Indiana University at Bloomington
University of Vermont
University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth
Union College
Trinity College

St. Joseph's College
Boston College

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
Boston University
Boston University
Cornell University
Westfield State College
Lassell College
University of Massachusetts at Boston
Connecticut College

-C-

Alicia Cabrera
Nick Campisi
Ben Caram
Matt Carbone
Michael Carlson
Meredith Cataldo
Jonathan Chan
Iesha Chaney
Jasmine Chang
Robin Chang
Becky Chanoux
Kevin Chen
Herb Chen
Dow-Jane Chi
Meaghan Chisholm
Eun Young Choi
Jennie Choi
Alexander Chu
Melissa Chu
Mark Cicerano
Steve Clark
Brooke Coffman
Jay Corr
Anne Crawford
Latasha Cromartie
Christine Cuccinello
Megan Curtis

Bentley College
University of Vermont
Clemson University
University of Delaware
Vanderbilt University
Boston College
Boston University
Northeastern University
Carnegie Mellon University
University of California at Berkeley
Bucknell University
University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Wellesley College

Harvard University
Harvard University
Bowdoin College
Harvard University
Plymouth State College
Cornell University
Denison University
Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Georgia Tech

Hesser College
Sarah Lawrence College

Laili Haeri Kafi
Dan Kamen
Jessica Kaplan
Amit R. Karna
Somayeh Kashi
Kurt Kastorf
Jonathan Keane
Eric Kelley
Robin Kelly
Stephen M. Kerr
Josh Kessler
Ayesha Khan
Ashley Kim
Caroline Kim
Elliott Kim
Deidre King
Leslie King
Tina King
Jerome Kirkpatrick
Ken Kolodziej
Jason Koning
Margaux Krempetz
Elizabeth Kulin
Gabrielle Kulin
Mari Kurosawa
Kelly Kwan

-K-

McGill University
University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth
Columbia University
Bowdoin College
Massachusetts College of Art
Emory University
Undecided
University of Colorado at Boulder
George Washington University
Williams College
Bucknell University
Barnard College
Boston University
Barnard College
Boston University
Fitchburg State University
Duke University
Flagler College
Undecided
McGill University
University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Stanford University
Muhlenburg College
Undecided
Attending college in Japan
University of New Hampshire

-D/E/F-

John D'Amore
Michael DaRu
Sarah Dailey
Tovah Day
Michelle Dennis
Alyssa DeVasto
Donna DiGiacomo
Barbara Dold
Jules Driscoll
Ben Eastwood
Benjamin Elgart
Dawn Ellis

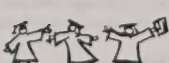
Harvard University
Providence College
Boston College
Harvard University

University of Regis

Attending college in Germany
Loyola University
Tufts University
Brandeis University
Middlesex Community College



Illustrations by Caroline Loomis



-L-

Eric Lajoie
Nicole LaPointe
Erik Larson
David Lee
Jennifer C. Lee
Seok Won (Alex) Lee
Sul Lee
Jason LeeKeenan
Christopher LeMar
Mariam Levy
Louisa Liberman
Grace Olivia Bernice Licorish
Alice Lin
Ee-Yenn Elaine Lin
Ying Liu
Charles Lock
Caroline Loomis
Stephanie Loomis
Jeff LoPresti
Elizabeth Lowenthal
Thianh Lu
Elizabeth Lupardo
Eric Lyons

Massachusetts Bay College
University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Columbia University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
University of Chicago
Lesley College
Harvard University
Franklin Pierce College
Swarthmore College
Mount Holyoke College
Columbia University
University of California at Berkeley
Undecided
Bay Path College
Hamilton College
Vassar College
Arizona State University
Fordham University
University of Maryland at College Park
University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Boston University
University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Eugenia Richardson
Rachel Roditi
Caitlin Kantrowitz Rollins
Meredith Rommelfanger
Katherine Rose
Jason Rosenfeld
David Rosner
Ayon Roy
Ranjan Roy
Jesse Ruggiero
Marcello Rullo
Riccardo Rullo

Florida A&M University
Washington University
Harvard University
Fashion Institute of Technology
Harvard University
Northwestern University
Tufts University
University of California at Berkeley
Emory University
University of Colorado at Boulder
Merrimack College
University of Vermont

-S-

Alex Samuels
Amy Santo
Matthew Saradjian
Brad Satz
Andy Schachter
Katie Schmalz
Mike Sciarretta
Margot Seldin
Oliver Sellers-Garcia
Christa N. Semerjian
Yasina Semy
Tali Shakartzi
Carolyn Shank
Amie Shei
Zuzie James Shi
Tim Shugert
Evan Siff
Jeremy Silber
Erica Silen
Jason Simon
Beth Singer
Jason Solomon
Chante Somerville
Lohn States
Maria Stravropoulos
Allison Stebe
Alex Stephenson
Pamela Stoner
Nick Storch
John Sullivan
Frank Sun
Reinita Susman

University of Chicago
University of Vermont
University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Curry College
SUNY Binghamton
St. Lawrence University
University of Massachusetts at Amherst
University of Maryland at College Park
Columbia University
University of Rhode Island
University of Toronto

Williams College
Amherst College
Carnegie Mellon University
University of Wisconsin at Madison
Hofstra University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Kenyon College
Undecided
Boston University
University of Maine at Orono
Clark Atlanta University
Springfield College
Ithaca College
St. Michael's College
Academy of Art College
Colby College
University of Toronto
Undecided
Carnegie Mellon University

-M-

Joshua Magri
Julie Marcal
Joe Marshall
Becca Mayer
Vanessa Mayer
Joe McCann
Kaitlin D. McDewitt
Mike McKay
Kara McManus
Shelley McWilliams
Matti Meharry
Andrea Miller
Rena Miller-Jacobs
Michael Mohan
Amber Moore
Omar Moussa
Stacy Mozafarian
Michelle Muccioli
Ian Mulira
Joshua Muller
Brent Murakami
Meaghan Murphy
Molly Muth
Daniel Myung

Boston College
University of Michigan at Ann Arbor
University of New Hampshire
Trinity College
University of Vermont
Northeastern University
St. Michael's College
St. Michael's College
Yale University
University of Rhode Island
Barnard College
Williams College
University of Vermont
Massachusetts College of Arts
Saint Anselm College

Drexel University
Pomona College
Evergreen State College

Harvard University

-N/O-

Nick Nagao
Steve Nawoichik
Kerry Needham
David Neuman
Dan Neumann
Edmund Neumeier
Joe Neustadt
David B. Northridge
Jay Oh
Mai Oishi
Matt Oliff
Alex Olson
Christina Orf
Melissa Ormiston
Mary Ruth Osten
David Oviatt

University of Texas
Brewster Academy
Hamilton College
Bates College
University of Connecticut

Rice University
Pratt Institute of Art
Tufts University
Bowdoin College

Tufts University
American International College
Bentley College
Trinity College

Edith Tan
Asmeret Teweldebrahan
Leah Theriault
LeTeya Thomas
Lyndsay Thompson
Lindsay Toczylowski
Kenyetta Tompkins
Carl Tortola
Rasheed Townes
S.J. Tripi
Jessica Tsai
Sheaumei Tsai
Scott Tucker
Matt Turcotte
Christopher M. Van Nostrand
Brian Van Wert
Peter Van Wert
Nick Vargelis
Shriram Vijayakumar
Tanya Villalobos

Fairfield University
Army, Clark Atlanta University
Bucknell University
Motherhood
Fordham University
Marymount Manhattan College

Boston University
Harvard University
Babson College
Cornell University
Harvard University
Babson College
Bentley College
Kenyon College
Working
Pennsylvania State University
University of Vermont
Carnegie Mellon University
Boston College

-P/R-

Sarah Pandapas
Neil Paris
Sarah Lee Park
Bridget Parry
Andrew Paul
David Paul
Andrea Pawliczek
Sara Petrasso
Dmitry Peysakhov
Elizabeth Pierce
Tina Plammoottil
Julie Pliner
William Potter
Laura Predmore
Becca Pressman
Stella Rabinowitz
Sarah Raeburn
Leela Ramnath
Emily Razzano
Brendan Reddy
Kenneth Remy
Lino Ribiero

Bentley College
Harvard University

Boston University
Babson College
Emory University
New York University
Northeastern University

Eastern Nazarene College
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy
Clark University

Hamilton College
Hartwick College
University of Vermont
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Smith College
Bowdoin College
Northeastern University
University of Vermont

Dana Walczak
Kate Waller
Erik Wang
Sandra Ward
Taj Washington-Murphy
Katie Wasilewsky
James Watt
Geneese Webster
Laura Weiland
Neal J. Williams
Latoya Wilson
Caitlin Wolf
Dave Wong
Heidi Wright
Kathy Yang
John W. Yasaitis
Ji Yoon
Raffi Yozgadlian
David Yusah
Homa Zarghamee
Michal Zilberman

Boston College
Bowdoin College
Dartmouth College

Wittenburg College
University of Colorado at Boulder
Taking the year off
Ursinus College
University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Undecided
University of Notre Dame
Catholic University
University of California at Santa Barbara
Undecided
Working
Parsons School of Design

Bowdoin College
Cornell University
McGill University

-W/Y/Z-

Best Wishes to the Class of 1998!

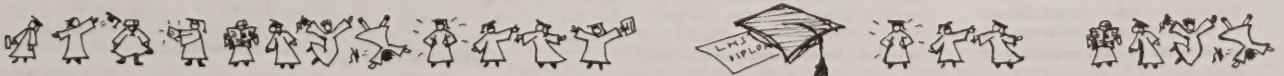




Photo courtesy of Naomi Goodman

LIVING HISTORY - Clad as Clara Lemlich, senior Naomi Goodman gives her monologue at State History Day. On June 14-18, four LHS students, Goodman and juniors Becky Dedrick, Elizabeth Shapiro, and Ken Weinstein, will compete at National History Day.

LHS exchange participants experience foreign cultures

By Joanna Gross and Brinton Seashore-Ludlow.

In late April students studying French and Spanish participated in the annual foreign exchanges, "culture-packed" trips to Europe. Each exchange program included about a dozen students and two chaperones. The French exchange was led by Mrs. Sandy Macey and Mrs. Jean Hart.

The group spent time in Normandy, where they toured World War II landing beaches, Giverny where they visited Monet's home, and other famous regions. For the remainder of their visit the students stayed with host families in Antony, a suburb of Paris, where they attended the Lycee Descartes with the French students and learned about the differences between everyday life in the US and France. "The school resembled a prison. They didn't have shower curtains, and the meals took a really long time," said Sophomore Alex Pollen.

The exchange taught Lexington students about France and also attempted to share American culture and customs with the French students. In Antony, the students gave presentations about America that included a timeline of American music, a sample of food, and a run-through of an American football game. It was the students' assignment to present America to their French friends. But this does not mean the French students understood or appreciated the presentations. Sophomore Will Garland thought the presentations and audience response were "horrible. The French kids didn't understand what we were saying. They kind of stared at us blankly."

Understanding the play *The Union*

By Nathaniel Protas

This year's original spring play, "The Union," was unlike most other plays that Lexington High School students have performed. It was surrealistic -- a far departure from the big Broadway style of this fall's "Into the Woods."

According to drama teacher Steven Bogart, the play can be understood on many levels. On one level, Bogart explains, the play can be seen as focusing on a girl and her coming of age. The play shows how adolescence can be a "frightening time for parents," but also that "parents have to learn to let go." Dangerous cult and extreme behavior are also found in the foreground of the play. The bugs that kidnap "Glowing All White Girl" represent the danger of cults. Furthermore, the bugs reinforce the idea that "nature is going to win out" in the end.

Imagination, however, is the center of this piece. It is surrealistic, based on an "idea of a creation process in which imagination creates itself," as Bogart explains.

In fact, surrealism, "works in its purest form, exactly like the imagination." Confused? Well, that's the idea. The play was written as if it were a dream, where reality is cryptic. Yet, because things "reference off each other" there is meaning in

"[I]t isn't right for us to dumb down material because we think people won't understand sophisticated theater. . . [Theater is] obliged to do something more powerful."

- Drama teacher
Steven Bogart

everything.

The process of writing the play is as strange and hard to understand as the play itself. To further the writing process Bogart "closed his eyes, opened a book and stuck his finger down," said junior Lisette Silva, who played Lavender in the

production. Although Bogart's source of creativity may sound like a joke, Silva is serious. An anthology of plays by playwright August Strindberg served as the jumping-off point for the play.

A story started to form, as Bogart added his own lines and removed others. Characters began to emerge: a mother, a daughter who was missing, and a man who knew where she was but wouldn't help find her. However, no concrete plot emerged until the idea of having detectives help the mother came to him. When Bogart had them ask where the child was, the line "she's an insect" just popped into his head. "Up until that point it was a vague experiment," he explains, but with that line, everything became clear. Thus the "Union" was born. Bogart admits that the play is hard to understand, but that is not by chance. He insists that "it isn't right for us to dumb down material because we think people won't understand sophisticated theater. In fact, it is the duty of theater to do more than televisions or the movies. It is obliged to do something more powerful."



Photo by Dan Myung

SIESTA - Junior Bertrand Landel proves he's learned from those laid-back Spaniards.

Math team ends year with many feathers in its cap

By Ken Weinstein

Lexington's human calculators strutted their stuff at dozens of competitions throughout the year. Coach Sal Rahman led the math team to numerous victories at the local, state, and national level.

The American High School Math Examination was taken by hundreds of thousands of students across the country. Only those scoring over 100 out of a possible 150 points go on to take the American Invitational Math Exam. Fourteen LHS students qualified. After the AIME, sophomore Yuen-Jong Liu qualified to take the USA Math Olympiad, the qualifying test for the International Math Olympiad.

Based on a school's overall top scores, the Atlantic-Pacific competition turned out

to be easy for the math team: LHS tied for first overall in the nation.

At Greater Boston Math League meets, the math team placed third overall. Co-captains senior Jason LeeKeenan, Liu, and junior Ken Weinstein were top scorers.

The prestigious Harvard-MIT-Rice University-Washington University competition includes math teams across the nation. LHS took first place.

On the Massachusetts Association of Math Leagues Olympiad, ten LHS students did themselves proud, advancing to the second level. At the second-level examination, Liu placed first in the state. Weinstein and LeeKeenan placed seventh and eighth, respectively.

In the Massachusetts Math League, Lexington placed second to rival Canton, with freshman Jackie Ou and Liu earning honors as top-scoring freshman and sophomore, respectively.

Lexington placed second in the New England Math League (NEML), an in-school competition similar to the Atlantic-Pacific. The team fell one point short of a perfect overall score.

Lexington won its fifth consecutive victory in the UMass-Lowell competition. The quick math skills of senior Ram Gowda, LeeKeenan, Liu, and Weinstein could not be defeated. Each was awarded a scholarship to UMass-Lowell.

Finally, in the difficult Worcester Polytechnic Institute competition, the four some of LeeKeenan, Liu, senior Sheamei Tsai, and Weinstein brought home top honors. Liu, for the second year in a row, was the top overall individual scorer, and all four earned scholarships.

A night to (un)remember

PROM continued from page 5

there are an even number of seats there. The lobby outside the ballroom looks nice when it's not crowded anyway.

The pulsating music fills the room like a thick fog. That's all you can hear and all you can see are the flashing lights. You start jumping up and down. All you do is jump up and down. For hours on end you jump up and down. You start to fall asleep, but you can still jump up and down. The whole night is costing you \$400. You jump up and down some more. You want your money's worth, dammit.

You would like to slow dance with your date, but they disappear whenever

you look the other way. You see them sitting on the stairs outside, talking to some friend or another. You eventually get them to dance with you. You stare into their eyes, looking for some hint of emotion. You trick yourself into finding it, and you now have it in your head that you really do like this person -- more so than your one true love who didn't go with you.

The dance ends. You should be tired from all that expensive jumping, but your newfound hope keeps you going. You and entourage pile back into the limo. There's a post-prom party at someone's house, so you end up going there, before your time on the limo runs out. You're stranded at this person's house because you don't have

a car, so you might as well try to enjoy it. Any hope for something to develop between you and your date blossoms in your eyes.

You eventually make your way home, where you sleep for the next 13 hours. You wake up, and try to remember just what happened. There was this limo... There were these pictures... There was a whole lot of jumping going on...

And now the prom is already a distant memory like the SATs or your sophomore year. \$400 could have gone to fixing your car or buying that guitar. But, if everyone says that it's worth it, then the prom must be worth it.

- Carl Tortola (didn't go)



Photo by Dan Myung

KING OF THE COURT - Freshman first singles Andres Reyes proves that height isn't everything when it comes to tennis.

Girls' LAX ties defending champs

By Eleanor Finnegan

On a Thursday, May 28, a day designed for heat stroke, the Lexington Girls' Lacrosse team tied the defending state champs, Needham. The action on the field may have seemed to be in slow motion because of the heat, but the Lexington team still managed to score eleven goals on the All-Scholastic goalie from Needham.

There were other obstacles that the team had to overcome besides the heat. The whole defensive unit was sick but still played an excellent game. The prowess of juniors Claire Cuno, Jessie Liu, Sara Wiltshire and senior Mariam Levy helped to make junior goalie Ami Karkar's job easier. Senior Alice Lin took many hits to prevent Needham from scoring. The intensity of the game almost makes the lacrosse guys seem like wimps in comparison: the girls still have the checking without all of the padding.

It was not only the defense that contributed to the girls' tie. The offense also played incredibly, making this game a nail-biter right

to the very end. Junior Sarah Cahill played both phenomenal offense and defense. She was at either end of the field, wherever she was needed, whenever she was needed.

Showing that they were a force to be reckoned with, the Maids opened the game by jumping out to a 2-0 lead. However, by half-time, the score was tied at 9 apiece. Lexington responded first to the tie by scoring. Needham then tied the score up and, within the last minute of the game, scored to pull into the lead with 11 goals. However, the girls' valiant efforts in this game were not to go unrewarded. With 30 seconds remaining in this excellent game, sophomore Miriam Godfrey scored the game-tying goal.

This tie was sweet redemption for the team after having suffered one of their two defeats at the hands of mighty Needham. The Lexington girls look for full compensation in the tournament during which they can hopefully unseat the defending champs. The Maids opened their tournament play on June 2nd at home.

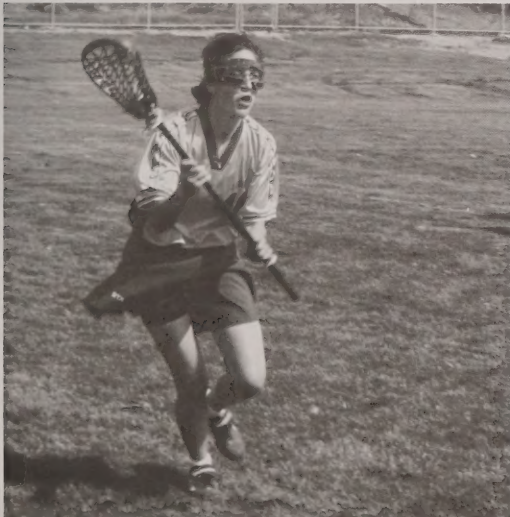


Photo by Dan Myung

CHECK HER OUT - Brandishing her lacrosse stick, senior Mariam Levy makes the boys on the lacrosse team seem like wimps.

Boys' Tennis falls just short of ending Winchester's reign

By Alex Sherman

When the Lexington boys' varsity tennis team lost 3-2 to Winchester in the second match of the season, Coach George Mechem set a goal for his team: win the rest of our matches so when we play Winchester again, we can have a shot at the league title.

This seemingly daunting task was nevertheless achieved by Lexington, who reeled off 16 straight wins after the heart-breaking loss to the Sachems. To add more drama to the scene, the second Winchester match was postponed due to rain to the last match of the regular season. Both teams had accomplished much in their seasons, and the last game of the season would decide whether Winchester won the Middlesex League championship outright and went undefeated, or whether Lexington would salvage a split of the series and a share of the league title.

Last Wednesday, Lexington battled Winchester again in what turned out to be an epic match. The Minutemen came so far after losing 3-2 to Winchester the first time around only to...lose 3-2 again. However, Lexington has nothing to be ashamed of after a dramatic and courageous effort.

Lexington got off to a great start as their second doubles team of seniors Kevin Chen and Hanshin Hsieh jumped on Winchester early, taking the first set 7-6 in a tie-break. When the first doubles team of junior Josh Leopold and senior Mike Sciarretta lost their first set 6-1, Lexington's singles players, who all lost in round one, knew that

they would have to step up. Although senior Nick Nagao dropped his first set 6-1, sophomore Wayne Chuang responded to the challenge, winning his first set 6-2 while first singles, freshman Andres Reyes, shocked Milos Janicek 6-4, giving Lexington a 3-2 advantage after all of the first sets had concluded.

After each second set had concluded, the stage was set for a classic ending. Winchester's first doubles and second singles players had done their jobs, knocking out Leopold and Sciarretta 6-3 and Nagao 6-4. However, Chen and Hsieh came through with a 6-4 second set victory to give

"Sure, it was disappointing to lose the match, but looking toward the tournament, I'd rather beat Winchester there,"

- Sophomore Wayne Chuang

Lexington a point. And Reyes completed possibly the biggest upset of this year's season, toppling state-renown senior Janicek 6-2 in the second set to knot the match at 2.

However, when Peter Oman stole the second set 6-3 from Chuang, tying his match at one set apiece, it had come down to one set for the league championship. Chuang, a sophomore who has risen through the ranks as the season has progressed, was faced with a big-time pressure match in front of the biggest crowd that has watched a match all year. Chuang was matched up against an opponent who

found a strategy that worked. Although Chuang is probably the more talented tennis player, Oman used a plethora of slice drop shots and lobs to keep Chuang off-balance.

After quickly getting down 3-0, Chuang engaged in a long rally on the first point of the fourth game before approaching the net. When Oman hit a passing shot down the line, Chuang dove to his left in a desperate effort to return the shot.

Unfortunately, Chuang cramped up and it looked as though Lexington may have to default the biggest match of the year. However, a gritty and courageous Chuang, after laying on the clay court for close to ten minutes, got up, walked off his cramp, and continued to play. Although Chuang showed signs of a comeback, it was Oman's day. He closed out the set and the match 6-0 to give Winchester its league title and undefeated season.

"Sure, it was disappointing to lose the match, but looking toward the tournament, I'd rather beat Winchester there," said Chuang. Lexington, who will continue into the post-season, has had a memorable season powered by four seniors who have provided leadership and experience.

Next season, only Reyes, Chuang, Leopold, and junior John Amar will return from the regular varsity line-up. However, a promising JV team this year should yield good players into the system next season. As a result, the Minutemen can expect more winning in the years to come.

Softball Maids win last game, qualify for MIAA tournament

By Veronique N. Sandefer

The LHS softball team had a challenging season, with 10 wins and 10 losses, just barely qualifying for the MIAA tournament. While all of the losses were disappointing, some were more devastating than others.

"The [second] game against Woburn was heartbreaking. The whole team wanted to win so badly. The fact that we played so well against one of the best teams in the state made me really proud of the whole team because we tried so hard," said senior second baseman Sarah Dailey.

The Minutemaid almost beat Woburn twice, going into extra innings in both meetings of the rival teams. Lexington is the only team this season to get more than one earned run off Woburn pitcher Liz Nadeau. Lexington also has an outstanding pitcher in senior Kara McManus, who pitched two shut-out games against both

Watertown and Burlington and kept all of the 'Maids' games close. The starting line-up is incredible, including seniors Brooke Coffman (shortstop), Dailey, and left fielder Kerry Needham.

It's obvious that the problem wasn't a lack of ability (the Globe ranked the Minutemaid twelfth in Eastern Mass. before

"The [second] game against Woburn was heartbreaking. The whole team wanted to win so badly. The fact that we played so well against one of the best teams in the state made me really proud of the whole team because we tried so hard,"

- Senior Sarah Dailey

ple follow like a chain reaction." After losing the first four games of the season, however, the 'Maids pulled it together to win the next three. The rest of the regular season was a see-saw of wins and losses with no set pattern. Forced to win the last game of the regular season against Winchester in order to make the single elimination state tournament, the 'Maids stepped up, trouncing the Sachems 9-1.

The team consists of a talented smorgasbord of sophomores, juniors, seniors, and even a freshman, third baseman Jillian Savoy. In addition to Coffman, McManus, Dailey, and Needham, catcher Andrea Pawliczek, on whom few runners have dared to steal, and outfielders Stella

Rabinowitz and Becky Busa will graduate this year. Sophomore first baseman Amy Androuais moved to St. Louis with two games remaining in the season and was replaced by junior Laura Beth Chamberlain.

the season) so what is it? According to junior right fielder Becky Ticotsky, the problem is the little things.

"We've had a lot of errors in the field," she said. "If one person makes a mistake other peo-



Photo by Dan Myung

FLEET FEET - Senior Leslie King sprints toward the finish of her mile, flying past the competition.

Outdoor Track ends season with a bang

By Carolyn Shank

As the year winds down, both the boys' and girls' track teams have a lot to be proud of. The girls finished the year with two league titles and a relay meet championship. The boys finished with winning records in cross-country and indoor track.

Indoor track was especially successful for the Men: they finished 7th at the All-State meet and sent their 4 by 400 meter relay team to the national competition. The outdoor track season has also been very successful. Most recently, the Minutemen and Maids competed in the State Relay meet, the Salem Coca-Cola Classic meet, and the Middlesex League meet.

The Minutemaids finished second overall in Class A at the Relay meet, compiling a total of 47 points. Some teams that performed especially well included the long jump relay team, placing second, consisting of Grace Licorish, Mel Woessner, and Stacey Fraser, and the 4 by 400 meter relay team, also placing second with a time of 4:12.9. This relay was run by Adriana Schick, Caitlin Wolf, Kate Reynolds, and Amie Shei. Shei ran superbly, recording an anchor leg split of 58.8 seconds.



Photo courtesy of Yearbook

HOT HITTER - Power-hitting senior Eric Armstrong stares down the pitcher, and waits for the next pitch to come his way.

Boys' LAX advances in tourney

By Becky Ticotsky

The defense of the LHS boys' lacrosse team was so strong that rival Metro North League coaches complained to Lexington coach Dave Lautman about the inequity of the competition.

"Our team defense is the thing that people in the league notice," Lautman said.

The Minutemen's hard-to-beat style of play, controlling the ball on offense and playing tough defense propelled them to a 9-6 record, third place in the extremely competitive MNL, despite starting the season 1-4. The 'Men qualified for the MIAA tournament for the 11th consecutive year, and won games in the first two rounds.

Five of Lexington's regular season losses were to Concord-Carlisle, (ranked number one in Eastern Mass.) league rival Billerica, (#2 in EMass) and Winchester (#4). Lexington beat the third ranked team, St. John's Prep, convincingly during the regular season, however.

"Out of our 15 games, we only had three easy ones," said

Lautman. "All of the others we had to play well to win."

It didn't get any easier in the post season. Lexington (#14) hosted Malden Catholic (13-4) in the first round of the tournament, and prevailed 7-5.

"We won through hustle," said senior goalie Chris Beltz. In the second round, Lexington beat St. John's Prep 11-9 despite trail-

"Out of our 15 games, we only had three easy ones. All of the others we had to play well to win."

- Coach Dave Lautman

ing by four entering the fourth quarter. Senior league all-star midfielder Nick Campisi dominated with five goals and two assists.

Senior Jeff LoPresti picked up two goals and two assists, and sophomore Brian Kelley netted two more.

Beltz, whom Lautman thinks is the best goal tender in Eastern Mass., anchored the ferocious

defense that enabled Lexington to beat such highly touted teams as Weymouth, Beverly, Waltham, and St. John's Prep. Seniors Steve Nawoichick and Matt Turcotte, who did "an unbelievably good job," according to Lautman, and juniors Greg Smith, Mike Groppi, and Jared Seaquist were some of the principal parts of the defensive monster.

Junior Dave Santo dominated the face-off while Kelley scored a team high 33 goals during the regular season. Seniors Campisi, LoPresti, and Erik Wang, and junior Jay Kasparian fed Kelley in the crease and netted several goals of their own. Sophomore David Chapman proved a very promising midfielder.

"We have a few of the best players in the state," said Lautman. Even players who saw limited playing time won a couple of games for the Minutemen. Senior Eric LaJoie scored a crucial goal in the second Waltham game and junior Kyle Hintlian stepped in and scored goals under pressure, as well.



Photo by Dan Myung

LOVE IS BAD, RIGHT? - Junior Jasmine Spidle returns a volley with force. Girls' Tennis finished the regular season 15-3, losing only to the consistently strong Winchester and Belmont teams. Seeded seventh, the 'Maids defeated Boston Latin on June 1st in the octafinal round of the North Division State Tournament and lost to the undefeated Andover team in quarterfinals on the 2nd.

Baseball clinches league title

By Nick Roetter

This season has been a landmark one for the Lexington High School Baseball team. As underdogs in a very tough league, the Minutemen have clinched their first league title in 46 years. With this year's State tournament fast approaching, you can bet the Minutemen will be making some noise in the postseason.

Lexington clinched at least a share of the league title with their 4-0 win over Burlington on May 26. Chris Nasson continued his fine season(6-0 record) as he pitched the first five innings while recording six strikeouts. Classmate Mike McGirr showed his animalistic behavior by pitching the last two innings and fanning the last batter convincingly. At the plate, Mike Bresnihan made Mrs. Desloges E-block Spanish IV class proud with his huge RBI single during the fourth inning.

Lexington learned the day after that they had won the league title outright as Stoneham stunned Reading in a come-back, one run victory in the last inning. If Reading had won, they would have split the league championship with Lexington. The day before the Burlington win, the Minutemen disposed of Wakefield by a score of 3-0. Wakefield is a team that many thought to be the strongest in the league before the season started.

One bright spot of that game was the play of Karl Schweitzer, who is filling in at third base for the injured John Erickson. Schweitzer was 2-for-3, and drove in Bresnihan for the game's first run. McGirr (5-1) was again masterful in pitching the shutout. The Minutemen have shown composure in close games as well. Against Belmont the Minutemen squeaked out a 5-4 victory while against a hot Woburn Team(Woburn was coming up an

upset victory against Reading, a team the Minutemen split their two games with) they showed that they would not fall victims to another upset, despite falling behind 4-2 in the top of the fourth.

Hot hitter Eric Armstrong(4-5, 4 RBI) put the Minutemen ahead for good with his RBI triple driving in both McGirr and Tom Bellini. The conclusion of the regular season has brought more than the state tournament to Lexington Baseball. Chris Nasson and Ben Caram were named league All-Stars, while Bellini, Erickson, Armstrong and McGirr were named all-league.

In addition, Coach Tom "OG" O'Grady has been named coach of the year, while Armstrong was named league's Most Valuable Player. If the regular season is any indication, the Minutemen will now show the rest of Eastern Massachusetts how they play ball.